

DALLAS TIMES HERALD  
22 August 1978

# CIA director critical of 'false accusations'

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Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, accepted the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Americanism Award at the VFW's convention here Monday and said the award was important to the CIA because the agency now spends much of its time defending itself against "false accusations."

"It is time this country stopped looking on every public servant as a suspect and looking on every renegade whistleblower as a hero," he said to applause from 7,000 VFW members at the opening session of the VFW's 79th annual convention at the Dallas Convention Center.

"I happen to believe that good intelligence is more important to America today than at any time in its history," said Turner, who succeeded George Bush as CIA director in 1977. "Because of détente and the situation now facing the nation, what happens in foreign countries has more importance."

"But at a time when our leaders need good intelligence, I'm sorry to have to report to you how much of our time is not spent collecting good intelligence but defending ourselves against false accusations."

Turner said it was heartwarming to receive the award, which called the CIA a "force for decency and democracy."

FBI Associate Director James B. Adams, who accepted a VFW Americanism Award on behalf of the FBI, echoed Turner's remarks.

Adams said it had been "disheartening" in the past two years to see the FBI's mistakes blown out of proportion and its accomplishments minimized.

But, he told the VFW delegates, "We have weathered the storm and are prepared to render superior performance with complete regard of the law and the Constitution."

VFW members applauded as the FBI associate director told them his agency was grateful for their support "when it seems it is much more fashionable to criticize intelligence agencies."

Gen. Alexander Haig, Monday's keynote speaker, warned that the "relentless growth of Soviet power" had turned the U.S.S.R. into a global power which no longer threatens just Europe.

Haig, Allied Supreme Commander of NATO forces in Europe, said NATO nations agreed to increase defense spending in Europe at the "lowest level of prudence."

But he said he was "cautiously optimistic" because of the summit meetings at which NATO nations agreed to bolster their position by increased spending and improved efficiency.

"But one year of hyperactivity," he cautioned, "cannot correct 10 years of neglect."

The former aide to President Nixon also said he would be less than frank if he did not say that some of our attention might be misplaced if we focused on just NATO and Europe.

"If we corrected the imbalances (in Europe) tomorrow," he said, "we would not have begun to correct the security problems facing our nation and free nations in the future."

Haig said the U.S.S.R. now is spending 15 per cent of its gross national product on its military, a figure that has allowed the Russians to modernize their military, create a global navy and still have modern military equipment available to answer calls for help from developing nations in Africa and other parts of the world.

Later in a news conference after his speech, Haig said, "I did not mean to suggest that it is not vitally important to correct our (NATO) force imbalance in Europe."

But, he said, "We have to understand the problem is the management of Soviet global power."

While conceding that "extreme caution" must be used in Africa, Haig said the Western nations must use political, economic and other forces to insist the Soviets abide by international laws and morality in developing countries.

Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kans., also warned of the Soviet military buildup and criticized the Carter Administration for its defense cuts at a VFW banquet Monday night.

"I think it was a mistake when we announced we were withdrawing troops from Korea. It was a mistake to give away the Panama Canal. We're going to rue the day that ever happened," Dole said. "And I've never understood why we have to cuddle up to Castro."

The Republican charged that the Russians mock President Carter's campaign for human rights because they sense they are moving past the United States as a military power. And he warned that Soviet influence has extended from Africa to Afghanistan, the Middle East and the Caribbean.

"And they are now maneuvering."

Dole charged, "into a position to blockade our Middle East oil sources and tanker routes."

Before Dole's speech, the VFW awarded its highest honor, the Dwight David Eisenhower Gold Medal posthumously to the late Sen. James Allen, D-Ala. for his leadership in the fight against releasing the Panama Canal. His wife who was appointed to her late husband's senate seat, Sen. Maryon Allen, accepted the award.